

Your request has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act). I can confirm that the Department holds the information you requested.

As this information is already published, the Department is therefore not obliged to comply with a request for that information, by virtue of the exemption under section 21 of the FOI Act as the information is reasonably accessible by other means and this can be found at the website below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dclg-government-procurement-card-spending-data-april-2006-to-march-2013>

The online transparency and tougher controls have helped cut expenditure on 'Central Departments' Government Procurement Cards' by 91% from £321,076 in 2009-10, to just £27,860 in 2012-13 and cut the number of card holders from 210 in May 2010 to just 25 in March 2013.

Whilst there is a role for electronic payments using such cards, under this Administration, the department has introduced new internal checks and audit trails on the use of the Government Procurement Card, from pre-approvals to requiring post-transaction reporting. Our transparency agenda of publishing spending data online has also increased internal and external scrutiny of every single transaction on such charge cards.